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IV. OCEANICA.

1. *Philology.*

Wörterbuch d. Japanischen Sprache. Von Dr. A. Pfizmaier. Lief. 1. Wien: 1851.

This work may be soon in demand, if the expected results are realized from the national expedition about to leave this country for Japan, and a similar one reported to be preparing in France.

Ethnology of the Indo-Pacific islands. By J. R. Logan. Language. Chap. I. General character of the Indo-Pacific languages. Chap. II. Classification of the Indo-Pacific langg. Chap. III. Comparative characteristics of each group: 1. Polynesian. 2. Micronesian. 3. Papuanesian. 4. Australian. 5. East Indonesian. 6. West Indonesian. 7. North-East Indonesian. (In *Journ. of Ind. Archip.* for April, 1851.)

2. *Geography.*

Nippon. Archiv zur Beschreibung von Japan und dessen Neben- und Schutz-Ländern. Von P. F. v. Siebold. Sect. xvii-xx. Leyden: 1851.



IV. DR. VASSALLO ON MALTESE ANTIQUITIES.

Dei Monumenti Antichi nel Gruppo di Malta Cenni Storici del Dr. Cesare Vassallo. Periodo Fenicio ed Egizio. Valletta: 1851.

The author of this pamphlet of fifty-five pages is Government-Librarian on the island of Malta, and gives proof, in these *Historical Hints*, of possessing both zeal and knowledge with reference to the antiquities of that ancient entrepot of commerce between the East and the West. Many architectural remains, it appears, of which some traces are to be seen above ground, still lie buried in their own ruins in the environs of Gudia, Zabbar, Musta, and Medina, and on the island of Gozo; and many ancient specimens of sculpture and the plastic art, from this locality, are lost to the world in private cabinets. Yet numerous objects of interest to the antiquarian have been long opened to the light of day, while new excavations are adding, from time to time, to the material for description and study. At the present day, too, such remnants of ancient civilization and religion may be studied with more hope of arriving at just conclusions than could formerly be entertained with reason, especially when those old writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, who have been chiefly depended upon for a knowledge of Maltese antiquities, made and published their observations. Dr. Vassallo's pamphlet, though brief,

tells us of all the discoveries of antiquities which have been made in the Maltese island-group, down to the most recent date, and criticizes some of the speculations of his predecessors. It is, however, most to be valued for its descriptions of ruins.

After alluding to the ties of religion, as well as of commercial interest and custom in civil affairs, which bound all the colonies of the Phoenicians to the mother-country, although they were virtually independent of it as respects their own government, the author observes that, from the number of sacred edifices of the Phoenicians already brought to light in the Maltese island-group, and of deities known to have been worshipped there, it might seem to have been originally intended by the colony from Tyre, or Sidon, which established itself at Malta, to make this "a grand national Pantheon." But such are the inequalities in the workmanship of these several edifices, that they cannot all be referred to the same age, but must be viewed as the result of the labors of successive generations, as the progress of time gave increase of skill to the hand of the workman.

As a specimen of the work before us, we give here the author's description of the ruins of Hajar Kim, the remains of a temple which he ranks as the fourth in the order of age, among the edifices in question, the excavation of which was accomplished in recent times.

"*Hajar Kim*, or Stone of worship,* is a place about a mile to the South of the village of Krendi. Even from ancient times, the massive columns which rise up there, had awakened admiration and curiosity in those who had visited them; and there was a general desire that some one should take in hand, some time or other, to clear the space surrounded by those masses, of the stones which encumbered it, in the assurance that something of interest to archeological science in general, and more particularly to the civil and religious history of the Maltese group, would without fail be revealed. Consequently, in November of the year 1839, Sir H. F. Bouverie authorized Sir V. Casolani, Collector of the public dues, to undertake the excavation; which having lasted two months, the Phoenician temple of Hajar Kim was discovered such as it is now found.

On a glance at the plan of the temple, two parallel spaces present themselves, of compressed oval form, and of unequal extension. The larger is one hundred and five feet in length, (English,) the other, eighty. The two breadths added together make seventy feet.

To the first space two others adjoin, very nearly of the same form, but of only thirty-eight feet in length, each.

The enclosing wall is constructed of colossal stones, placed for the most part vertically, as indeed are the walls of the interior subdivisions.

Various are the entrances; but it is beyond question that the principal one was that which looks to the East.

* The translation should be, undoubtedly, the Upright Stone, in allusion to the columns which have always marked the locality.

Looking at the semicircles, divided from the rest by stones placed for the purpose, and at the two spaces which adjoin the larger area, it is manifest that the design was to make six principal divisions.

A few steps from the enclosure, are to be seen four broad stones which rise up to the height of fourteen and fifteen feet, and which, united at the lower extremity, cover a line of twenty-seven feet; also two others besides, of very nearly equal dimensions; and a seventh isolated.

In one of the principal spaces is seen a small altar of interesting form. It is four-sided, two feet and five inches high, one foot wide, half way up the side. In the angles jut out eight small pilasters, which sustain an *abacus*; and on the intermediate faces are represented in *alto rilievo* two portions of serpents, united in a point, from whence a palm-tree springs, which with its branches covers and adorns the whole surface. Upon the *abacus* rises, to the height of four inches, a circle of one foot and more in diameter. All the surfaces, at least those above the circle, are pierced with holes in every direction.

Near to the altar above described, stands the sacred slab, grooved in between two parallel and vertical stones. This, as usual, is pierced with holes over the whole surface, and in the middle is discoverable, by two raised spiral lines, the half of an egg in *alto rilievo*. The sacred slab rests, through its whole length, upon a support, which is certainly the sacred threshold. In the space which intervenes between the two stones above mentioned, were found bones of quadrupeds in great quantity; and it is probable that, by farther excavation there, the bone-pit would be found in that place.

Very many fragments of vases, of various dimensions, were also found: some of them adorned in tiles, and some in circles; a part in intaglio, and a part in relief; all of *terra cotta*. Three monopods, of a single stone, are still uninjured, and the very ruins, under which they formerly lay for so many ages, have preserved them.

In some parts of the temple, which no one is able to indicate, were found very many concavo-convex stones; others of conical form; others hemispherical, which, matched and united, would make either a sphere or an egg. Various are their respective sizes, that is to say, from five to three and a half inches in diameter.

But the most valuable objects found there, are certainly six small statues of our stone, varying in size, and without the head. They are, perhaps, all which have come down to us, made by Phœnician art. Two are sitting, and a large robe envelopes and covers them, distinctive of their feminine sex; and one of the two has a tress of hair falling down the back as low as the heels. Four are in a squatting posture, and are entirely naked. A seventh, which is the largest, is mutilated from the knee down; and a girdle covers it from the navel to the middle of the thigh. In all is to be observed an obesity which renders them strikingly alike, and which, despite of oneself, moves one to laughter. In two of them, where the neck joins the breast, there is a cavity, and some holes suitable for setting in, and fastening, a false head. The bases, either formed of the hems of the respective robes, or of the crouched limbs, are circular, and measure from one foot and eight inches to three feet in circumference; their heights vary from seven to nine inches. The larger of the small statues would stand perfectly in a circle of little more than four feet. It is to be remarked, that, looked at in front, they represent an external line composed of two semicircles of unequal diameter, the smaller placed above the larger. And one controlling thought is apparent, to make circular lines predominate in every part and in every limb belonging to them."

The author's notices of remains of Phœnician sacred architecture are followed by a description of the celebrated necropolis of the hill

of Ben Gemma,* which he closes with the remark that, "if one chose to devote himself to the work of tracing out Phœnician necropolises, Roman catacombs, and Christian dormitories and crypts, there would be material, here, for writing a most interesting *Malta Subterranea*.

But beside Phœnician remains, there have been also found, in the Maltese group, some which seem to be Egyptian. The author infers that there was a time when the Egyptians held sway there. However this may be, the motley character of the Phœnician colonies, in general, would seem sufficiently to account for traces of other influences there than those derived from the mother-country. Egyptian influence is traced in the ancient excavation discovered by the United States Consul at Malta, which was described in the second volume of this Journal. With reference to the question of the origin of this monument, our author observes that the severity of the rectangles in its *tout ensemble*, contrasted with the established circular forms of Phœnician religious architecture, is decisive; and moreover, that the Phœnicians erected, and did not excavate, their temples.

We should have been glad to speak of some of the articles in *terra cotta*, glass, and marble, Phœnician and Egyptian, which have been found in the Maltese group. But this notice is already longer than was intended, and must now be brought to a close.

E. E. S.



V. THE JEWS AT KHAIFUNG-FU IN CHINA.

In Vol. II. p. 341 of this Journal it was announced that a communication had been opened with the Jews at Khaifung-fu, that eight Hebrew manuscripts had been obtained from them, and that valuable information had been collected about the state of that community, by two Christian Chinese travellers.

It now appears that the journals of these travellers, with an introduction by George Smith, D. D. Bp. of Victoria, have been published at Shanghai in a pamphlet form,† and that fac-similes of four of the manuscripts, viz. sections XIII. XXIII. XXX. XLVII. of the Mosaic

* Probably, the Son of cloud, though Dr. Vassallo translates the name the Son of the Crested.

† The Jews at K'hae-fung-foo: being a narrative of a mission of inquiry, to the Jewish syn gogue at K'hae-fung-foo, on behalf of the London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews; with an introduction, by the Right Revd. George Smith, D. D., Lord Bishop of Victoria. Shanghai: 1851. pp. xii. and 82.